

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 STR-04 COME-00

TRSE-00 OMB-01 /046 W

----- 065892

R 250835Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6306

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MT. UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET TRADE MISSION DEPARTS

REF: (A) VALLETTA 0796 (NOTAL) (B) VALLETTA A-4 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 16 ROBERT STIVALA, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF THE GOM MINISTRY OF TRADE AND G. S. BOURGHCHOV, HEAD OF THE LEGAL AND TREATIES DEPARTMENT OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY, INITIALLED A TRADE ACCORD BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. EARLY THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE THREE MAN SOVIET DELEGATION (SEE REF A) DEPARTED. DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT ARE NOT YET AVAILABLE, BUT A GOM SPOKESMAN SAID THE MAIN OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT IS TO FACILITATE THE DESIRED INCREASE IN TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER A. AMANZOULO "IS EXPECTED TO VISIT MALTA IN THE NEAR FUTURE " TO SIGN THE AGREEMENT, BUT SENIOR GOM OFFICIALS IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS SAY PRIVATELY THAT THIS IS FAR FROM FIRM.

2. NO MENTION WAS MADE IN THE PRESS REGARDING THE POSSIBLE ESTABLISHMENT BY THE SOVIET UNION OF A PERMANENT TRADE MISSION IN MALTA. BOTH FOREIGN SECRETARY ABELA AND ROVING
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AMBASSADOR ATTARD KINGSWELL INDICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR

ON JULY 23 THAT A PERMANENT, RESIDENT SOVIET TRADE MISSION WAS UNLIKELY.

3. ON JULY 14 LOCAL TASS CORRESPONDENT V. MKRTCHYAN HAD INFORMED EMBOFF DURING CASUAL MEETING THAT SOVIET DELEGATION HAD COME TO MALTA WITH THE INTENT AND EXPECTATION OF SIGNING BOTH A TRADE AGREEMENT AND AN AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT TRADE MISSION HERE. THIS UNDERSTANDING WAS BASED ON DISCUSSIONS WITH MALTESE OFFICIALS WHO VISITED MOSCOW IN JANUARY (REF B) AND IS THE SOVIET DELEGATION ANNOUNCED THIS PURPOSE UPON THEIR ARRIVAL. MKRTCHYAN STATED THAT DURING NEGOTIATIONS, HOWEVER, THE MALTESE UPPED THEIR ASKING PRICE FOR SETTING UP THE RESIDENT SOVIET TRADE MISSION SO MUCH THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THIS MATTER BECAME IMPOSSIBLE. HE WAS APPARENTLY RIGHT. SMITH

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NNN

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